

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL
CENTER FOR LOWELL HISTORY
ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION**

**SHIFTING GEARS PROJECT
BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY**

**INFORMANTS: DENNIS LARIVIERE, ZEPHERIN LARIVIERE, ALMA LARIVIERE
INTERVIEWER: PETER MOREAU**

**M = PETER MOREAU
D = DENNIS LARIVIERE
Z = ZEPHERIN LARIVIERE
A = ALMA LARIVIERE**

SG-BV-T126

[loud static throughout the tape, background traffic noise and the tendency of the informants to talk simultaneously makes much of the tape difficult or impossible to understand]

M: (- -) here who was Chief of the Fire and Rescue Department in Albion, and his parents uh Zepherin and Alma Lariviere.

Z: Yeah.

D: You got it. [Zepherin laughs] All right.

M: Very good.

D: You got it. (M: Okay) [unclear].

M: First question. Can you tell me how long you've lived in Albion?

Z: Nineteen, [laughs] nineteen eighteen.

M: Since nineteen eighteen?

Z: Yeah.

A: [unclear] same time. Yeah.

M: Were you married bef- (- -)

A: Married [over here].

M: Married here in Albion?

A: Yeah. It'll be fifty-nine years in Jul-, ehh sixty years next July. (M: All right)

D: July the first. (M: Oh)

Z: Good! Good! [someone claps]

M: And you've been here all your life?

D: Yeah. [Alma laughs] Oh yeah. Same house.

A: He was born over here.

D: Same everything.

A: He was born over here.

M: And did you both come from Canada?

A: No, I was born, uh I was born in uh Cherry Valley, Worcester, Massachusetts.

M: Oh, Worcester.

A: Yeah. But he comes from Canada.

M: Where, where in Canada?

Z: St., St. Jude. Way [unclear]. (M: Okay) [Goddam place!] [Alma laughs]

M: Why, why did you, [someone talks in background] or why did your family and you come here? Why, why did you move here from there?

Z: We moved there, over here.

M: Well why did you move, why did you move here?

Z: We [wish] we was going to die over there! [Alma laughs]

M: Why?

Z: Well there was a, that's why we move here.

D: There was no uh, no work up there huh?

Z: No work!

D: No nothing.

Z: Hey, you uh, the best work we had chopping wood. (M: Really?) We h-had a little axe my father fix up for me. Cut branch. My two brothers [unclear]. Used to get uh [unclear] you know. The old man used to [drive] his axe and eh cut the, [just] eh the wood you know. [unclear].

D: You came here for uh, to work in Albion though, huh?. (Z: Yeah) You came here to work in Albion.

Z: Yeah, I work [unclear]. We working very [cheap].

M: At, at the mill. (Z: Yeah) And what kind of work did you do in the mill?

Z: Yeah. [laughs]

M: Wha-, (A: Weaving) what kind of work?

Z: Weaving. (M: Oh)

M: Do you remember, (Z: Weaving) when, when you first came here, how much did you get paid? [Alma laughs]

Z: Oh, lots of money!

M: Yeah, I'm sure it wasn't much, but (- -)

Z: Hey, seven, eight dollars a week. [laughs]

M: Is that right? For how many, for how many hours?

Z: Ten!

D: Ten hours a day?

Z: Yeah.

M: Ten hours a day?

Z: [Yes, sir]!

M: I-i-i-, including Saturday?

D: Did you work Saturdays?

Z: Well, sometimes, sometimes.

A: [Alma and Zepherin both talk; Zepherin unclear] Saturday.

Z: (- -) extra. (M: Is that right?) I'd say about four hours a day on, on Sat-, uh Saturday.

M: So what does that make, like a fift-, fifty-four hour work week?

Z: [unclear].

D: Well ya, ya, for ten hours a day? You used to work ten hours a day, then four hours on Saturday. It's about fifty-four hours a week, yeah.

Z: Yeah. That's right. Oh my God.

M: How long did you work there?

Z: [chuckles] Well, for years and years before, after they changed you know the [Alma talks at same time; both unclear].

D: Dad! But you stayed there until they, they closed down right? You worked there until they closed.

Z: Oh yeah. Oh yeah.

M: Until 1962.

D: Yeah. He worked there until 1962.

Z: Yeah.

M: Did you, did you work there, too?

A: Yeah. (M: Oh I) I started to work there at eleven. [unclear].

M: What's that?

A: Putting drop wires on the, [unclear].

M: Oh. Eleven years old you were?

A: I start to work at eleven.

M: Eleven years old?

A: Yeah! I (- -)

M: Was that, was that normal that people [Zepherin laughs] would start at eleven?

A: Yeah. I used to work after school. (M: Yeah?) After school. (M: Oh is that right?) Gave us a chance. [Four hours].

D: [She] star-, started part-time there.

M: Did they get, did you get paid less because you were (- -)

A: Oh, well, we work part-time, four hours. I used to make about six, seven dollars a week. And sometime on Saturday, the, I, I used to go in the, in the office, and clean the office and they gave me some ticket to get some milk. [A dollar]. [Alma and Zepherin laugh heartily] They used to pass [this out]. (Z: What a cheap company!) [We used to have our milk for nothing].

Z: Oh, my God!

M: [unclear].

A: My God!

M: Ho-how would you describe the conditions in the mill? [Zepherin laughs]

A: Oh [we get] milk. We had milk from uhh (- -)

M: In the, in the mill. [Zepherin talks; unclear] In the, in the factory.

A: Oh, in the fac- (- -)

M: How, yeah how would you describe the conditions?

D: How was it to work over there? Was it nice to work over there or (- -)

A: Oh it was nice. (M: Yeah) Uhh, yeah. You would, uhh, you know we [unclear] [drop wires] and it was nice. (M: Oh yeah?) Very nice. (M: That's good)

Z: I used, I used to weave you know? (M: Yeah) Kaflee, kaflunk; kaflee, kaflunk. [several talk; unclear; traffic noises in background]

M: You, you, you think the conditions were good, too?

D: Did, was it was nice to work over there? The people nice?

Z: [yawning] Oh, well, you know. We had, it was [Alma talks; unclear] [very much] that

depend on our job. Well if you don't want to work, get the hell out. [chuckles] (M: Yeah) Got somebody else. But [unclear] seven, six, seven, eight dollars a week. You know, my father, "You got to work! You got to work!" (M: Why) But what the heck.

M: Why would people start working at such a young age?

A: Well I wanted to help my parents because my father was very sick. [unclear] in Worcester. [noise like cloth ripping in background] When we moved down here, I had to help you know.

M: Did your parents come from Canada?

A: Yes. My p-, my parents live over here. Uh, the mother, well my fa-, father was working in the [boiler] room. He was a watchman.

(M: Was he) I used to make three rounds every night for my father [unclear].

D: [You know how] your father was a watchman.

A: My father was a watchman.

Z: Yeah. Fa-, her father was a w- (- -)

A: My mother was working in the card room.

Z: Her father was a watchman. [someone talks at same time; unclear]

D: (- -) came from Worcester. Did he come from Canada?

A: Uh, uh, my father [Dennis talks at same time; Alma unclear]

D: Your grandfather, (A: Yeah) your grandfather come from Canada?

A: My grandfather, my father (M: Where?) come from Canada.

M: Where in Canada?

A: Uh?

M: Where in Canada?

A: Uhh, [Zepherin talks at same time; unclear] we used to, they used to live in White Rock and [Weedham]. They call them [Weedham] and White Rock. (M: Okay; that's right near, near Sherbrook?)

A: Sherbrook. [Not] far (M: Near there) from Sherbrook. Yeah, around there. (M: That area; okay) Yeah.

M: [Thanks]. Ya how, do you think the conditions in the mill were good, too?

D: Would, wa-, was it, was it, did you like working in the mill? You did think they were nice there?

Z: [laughs] I had to! (D: You had to?) (M: Yeah) I had to. I didn't like to work but suppose I stop over here, I go to [Ashton] or [Berkeley]. There was all the same kind of work. (M: Yeah: Did) You go to Manville the same thing. (M: Same) The [goddam] cotton mill!

M: Same kind of pay, too?

Z: [chuckles] Ooh, everywhere! (M: Every one was the same?) Hey, there, there was no union. (M: Yeah)

A: We stopped uh our pay [unclear], when we're in the [unclear] by Roosevelt. When Roosevelt came in [Alma and Zepherin both talk; Alma unclear]

Z: Yeah, w-, yeah, that's right. Roosevelt came in then we had union.

M: Wha-, what did that, because you had a union or because they had a minimum wage? Was that, why did they, why did they go (- -)

A: They had a minimum wage for a while, (M: Oh) but then after we started with the union.

Z: Yeah, yeah, that's right. (A: Yeah) That's when they start the minimum, wage, [yeah]. [Zepherin and Alma talk; both unclear] (M: Yeah) [unclear].

A: I was working in the spinning room and I was working uh ten hou-, ten a day, no, eight hours then huh? (Z: Eight hours) I was working. And I used to get twenty-three dollars. For six uh, well, about, I was spinning you know up there. And he was working in the [weave shop] and he used to make less than me. (M: Is that right?) (Z: Yeah!)

M: Now what, what, what year was that? About.

A: Ohh, gee (- -)

Z: [talking at same time as Alma] That was in nineteen, wait a minute, nineteen uh thirty-four, thirty-five. [Alma and Zepherin talk; unclear] And that, that's the time we had the first car, and save lot of money to pay for the car. (M: Yeah) [Alma and Zepherin laugh] (M: Yeah)

M: You had a car that, you had a car that early?

A: Oh yeah!

Z: Yeah, yeah that uh, a Plymouth. [someone coughs]

A: We had a Plymouth. Yeah.

Z: It was first Plymouth we had.

M: There mustn't have been very many people here with cars then.

A&Z: [together] Noo.

Z: There was some but (- -) There was, and, and the road wasn't like that. [laughs] It was sand road.

M: Do you remember when they paved it?

D: Do you remember when they put the, the blacktop [Alma, Zepherin and Dennis talk; unclear]

Z: You got me on that. I think oh, it's around, oh see, ten, fifteen years ago.

Unknown person: After that.

D: After that. (Z: Yeah) So it had to have been late thirties?

Z: Ohhoh yeah, late thirties. Yeah.

D: Late thirties?

M: Yeah. They put the sidewalks in at the same time?

D: Did they put the sidewalks when they put the road in? Did they put that the same time? You know when they (Z: Yeah) put the road in (A: Yeah) they put, they put the sidewalk. (A: Yeah)

Z: Her brother used to work ehh, what the heck was (- -)

A: [Val], my brother [Val]. (Z: Yeah) But, we were living over here when [Zepherin talks at same time; unclear] they started that.

D: (- -) WPA?

Z: WPA. (M: Yeah)

D: That was the Work [all talk; unclear]

M: The street and the sidewalk. I see the, I see the WPA in the sidewalks but I didn't know if it was at the same time.

D: Yeah that's. Yeah. That's where our money [unclear]. They must have laid also the sewers down, too, same time. Sewers [unclear].

(M: Yeah) They would had to have.

Z: Oh I tell you! [Alma says something unclear] Ohh, I work about a year and a half, over here. Five, five and a, five-thirty at night. They have to moonlight. And six-thirty next morning. (M: Yeah) For fifteen, sixteen dollars a day, a week. (M: Yeah) [unclear] huh?. We had to.

A: [unclear] the pressure [unclear]. (M: Yeah)

Z: Yeah. [But] (- -) Oh my God!

M: The mill stayed open, though, during the Depression?

A: Huh?

M: The mill stayed open during the Depression, though, didn't it?

A: Yeah. Well we stopped two weeks, [that right]? Two weeks. They stopped two weeks we had, we had uh Depression.

D: When they had the Depression?

Z: Two weeks. Two weeks.

A: Two weeks.

D: They closed the mill when they had the Depression?

A: Yeah, yeah. They closed.

Z: Yeah. That was a (- -)

M: That was better than a lot of other places.

Z: Yeah.

A: Oh boy!

M: At least, at least it was still open.

Z: Yeah.

A: Yeah.

M: Wha-

Z: [Oh God] I wouldn't want to go back like that. [laughs]

M: Do you remember how much you paid for rent? When you first came?

Z: [laughs] Four dollars a week. (M: Is that right?)

A: Well we used to pay a dollar thirty-five for my [tree]. [laughs] [And the others used to pay a dollar].

Z: Oh yeah, oh yeah!

M: Really?

A: Yeah!

M: Is that right? Huh.

A: Because I was (- -) You know where Mrs. [unclear] lives?

M: Yes.

D: [That's where he lives].

M: That's where I live, yeah.

A: Well we had a nice big tree there.

Z: [talks at same time] Oh is that where you live? Oh, you're the teacher! [laughs]

M: Right.

A: Yeah.

Z: Son of a gun, I didn't know! [laughs]

M: Now, now you do. [Zepherin coughs]

A: We were living on top of uhh, the third floor. (M: Yeah) (Z: Yeah, the third floor) And uh, and we used to pay a dollar thirty-five and the other used to pay a dol-, pay a dollar. (M: Really) So I say, "W-," I told the super, I say, "How come I got to pay thirty-five uh cents more?" Well he said, "You got a tree in front of your house." [all laugh]

Z: [laughing] The goddam shit!

A: [laughing] Oh, he was mad at me because I didn't tell, I didn't ask him to come to my wedding. (M: Oh; I see) [Zepherin and Alma talk; Alma unclear]

Z: Oh yeah, that's why he gets mad. He want to come to our wedding you know. (M: Oh) [Zepherin and Alma talk; both unclear]. (M: Yeah)

Z: [laughing] They're all dead. They all gone. (M: [unclear]) I'm glad. [Zepherin and interviewer both talk; interviewer unclear] They all [unclear].

M: You didn't like the, you didn't like the supervisors.

Z: No! No, because he was mean you know. (M: Oh yeah) At that time. You don't want to do this, you don't want to do that, get the hell out! You got ten, fifteen guys after you.

M: I guess you didn't have much choice though.

Z: No.

A: Well that's it. (M: Yeah)

Z: No at that time oh, I was stuck. Believe it or not, I was stuck. Well uhh I tell you another thing. You live in [unclear] house. (M: Yeah) Her, her husband, [the woman is dead], he knows you work there [unclear]. (M: Yeah) He, he know how it works. Course he's [Dennis and Zepherin both talk; Zepherin unclear]

D: When did they start selling the houses?]

M: Yeah, that was my next question. [all talk; unclear] Yeah, that's a good question.

D: When, when did they start selling the houses to the people? The company.

A: When.

D: Is that when you had the uh, first bought this one right away?

A: Yeah. [But] they bought this one right away. We used to live where the [unclear] are. (D: Yeah) So we couldn't get it because they got [unclear]. (D: Yeah) So we had, my father had this one here. Mr. [unclear], Mr. [unclear], (D: Yeah) didn't want it. (D: Yeah) It had [Dennis talks at same time; Alma unclear]

D: Y-, y-, What was that about? Was that uh before [Doris] was born or (- -)

Z: Oh yeah!

A: Uhhh, yeah.

Z: No!

A: Yeah, bef-, yeah.

Z: No, Doris was born in uh gosh that'd be about (- -)

D: Nineteen thirty?

A: No.

Z: No! No! [all talk; unclear]

A: Doris was born there and then after we moved, ehh she, Doris was five years old.

D: Nineteen thirty-five.

A: Yeah, nineteen thirty-five. But uh (Z: Yeah, that's right) my father bought that. [all talk; unclear]

M: Early thirties. Do you remember how much, how much did the houses cost?

A: My father paid fifteen, hundred.

M: Fifteen hundred? For this house?

A: For this one. [chuckles]

M: Is that right? Not like today, huh? [all laugh]

A: Today I won't, I won't need [to go] today. [all laugh heartily] My, my son will get it for me. [Zepherin laughs] It's our home. (Z: Yeah)

M: Where, (Z: See) where, where did you do your shopping?

A: Oh [unclear]. (M: What's that?) [all talk; unclear]

M: When you first came here.

A: Oh tha-, those days? Oh down the corner.

M: That w-, that was for, just for food, right?

A: Yeah, we, just the food [unclear], well the food. They had a market. Mr. Dalton was there.

Z: Mr. Dalton. Yeah. And he was the la-, was the [Alma talks at same time; unclear] guy that uh was, [unclear].

D: Yeah, I know who he is. [someone talks; unclear]

A: Mr. [Morette] had a too.

Z: [unclear] Canuck! [laughs]

M: That wa-, that was a private store though. It wasn't, wasn't owned by the mill or anything.

A: Well a [lot of people] [unclear], a regular store. (M: Well but the) had meat.

M: The mill didn't own it.

D: Did the mill own the store?

Z: Oh no.

A: The mill didn't own it, no.

M: Oh, okay. [someone talks; unclear]

Z: The, the mill used to run all the [unclear].

A: No they sold it. No. [someone talks; unclear] Ahh, ahh, Mr., how do you call him there, (Z: Yeah) Miguel eh? No.

D: Dalton?

A: Dalton. (D: Yeah) He had uhh, he bou-, he bought the (- -)

D: He bought off of the mill?

A: Then after he sold it to Mr. [Morette]. (D: Yeah) I tell you, I don't know (- -)

Z: The store. (D: Yeah) The store there [unclear].

A: Yeah.

Z: That, that used to belong to the company.

A: Yeah, it belonged to the company.

D: When you, when you came in, (A: Yeah) the, y-, company used to ru-, run everything.

[all talk; unclear]

M: The company owned the store then?

D: Yeah, they owned everything.

Z: [all talk; unclear] cows and uh [someone talks; unclear] five horses. [someone talks; unclear]

M: They kept their own cows and (- -) (D: Yeah) Did they [someone coughs] del-, did they deliver milk here or did you go to the store to get it?

Z: Ya-, yeah they delivered the, the milk. (M: They delivered the milk?) Yeah. (M: Yeah) Yeah. Every morning they, they go around you know. (M: Yeah)

A: I used to go to over [there] with Mrs. uhh (- -)

Z: Oh well you know, different these, [unclear] have a guy [on the, on the farm over there].

A: [Yeah, on the farm].

Z: Yeah.

A: Uhh, how do you call it uh, [Zepherin coughs] (- -)

Z: [Alma and Zepherin both talk; unclear]

A: [unclear]. No.

Z: The [barn] was uhh, you know, for the, when you go u-, go up [unclear] hill, at the, from the pond there?

D: Chateau Apartments, (M: Yeah, yeah) yeah that's where the barn was. (M: Right)

Z: Yeah apartments. That's, that's where the [barn] was. [someone talks; unclear] (M: Yeah) Yeah. Oh gee, [unclear]. (A: Yeah) But (- -)

D: Yeah. Well did the s-, did the mill started selling [Zepherin coughs] all the businesses, the, the stores and everything, when they started selling the houses?

A: Yeah, everything.

M: Oh that's when they did it, okay.

A: Yeah, yeah. Everything.

M: But before that the, the mill owned, owned the store. [Zepherin coughs]

A: Yeah. Yeah.

D: Apparently they owned everything. They owned the, the people who (- -) [chuckles]

A: Oh yeah [they did]. Nothing. The mill had every-, you had to ask for it. [Somebody].

M: Wha-, what about shopping for clothes [Zepherin coughs] and that kind of thing. (A: No you) Where would you, where, where would you that?

A: Shopping clothes? (M: Yeah) Well, we go to uh Woonsocket, go to Woonsocket.

M: How would you get there?

A: Our car.

Z: By bus. (M: Oh)

A: We had a car [that time].

Z: Yeah, remember the bus.

A&Z: We had the bus.

M: You had the bu-, but when, when, (Z: Yeah) like when you first came they probably, they didn't have buses in, in what'd (Z: Had buses) you say, nineteen eighteen? (Z: Uhh) They had buses in nineteen eighteen?

Z: Yeah, when I was single they had buses. (A: Yeah) (M: Oh yeah? Oh I didn't know they had them that early) Every, every uh, half hour, they [unclear] back up to Woonsocket.

M: How much would it cost?

Z: Fifteen cents.

M: Fifteen cents to get to Woonsocket?

Z: Yeah, yeah.

A: They had the train, too.

[tape stops momentarily]

Z: Oh it started over again.

D: You, you were here when, were you here when, when [Daddy] came over?

A: Yeah, (Z: Yeah) I came six uh month after him.

D: You're six months apart?

A: Yeah. (M: Just six months apart) We were over here before him.

D: You were over here before him? (Z: Yeah) (A: Yeah) (Z: Yeah) Now when you came (- -)

A: I was seven years old.

D: You were seven.

A: Yeah. And he was twelve.

D: Then where did you live when you came here? (A: Huh?) Where did you, where did you live when you came here?

A: You know the brick house? Uh, right in front of the Fire Department there? [gives street number in French] (D: Yeah) Well that house beside. (D: Oh yeah?) (M: Oh yeah) I used to live downstairs there. [Alma and Zepherin both talk; unclear]

D: And there was just uh School Street and, and Main Street.

A: A-, and Main Street. Yeah.

D: And everybody mo-, lived there (- -)

Z: I was living next to the school. (M: Oh yeah) [unclear] School. (M: Yeah) [coughs] That's why I uh (- -)

D: [unclear] blocks.

Z: Yeah. [unclear] blocks. Yeah. [unclear] blocks over there. That was two [unclear] blocks. That two eh across the street.

A: [He came and stay] right near our house.

Z: Yeah. That's right.

A: [unclear].

Z: [You see it]. (D: Yeah)

D: Now when you came in now, the company used to run everything? (Z: Everything) They used to run everything. They used to deliver the milk. They used to uh, take the rent out of your pay. You had to work [unclear]. (Z: That's right)

M: And they just took it right out of your pay? You never saw it?

Z: That's right. We had a big pay you know. [someone chuckles]

A: Yeah. We used to have [Zepherin coughs] our pay in an envelope. (M: Yeah) Uh, we didn't have no check. (M: Was it cash?) Cash. (M: Oh is that right?) Cash, right?

D: Yes. [Zepherin coughs] That I remember, too. They had cash until the uh, fifty-[eight]. (M: Is that right?) Because I worked in, (A: A lot of people didn't want to have) I worked in fifty-six, yeah, and they were still paying by cash. (M: Is that right?) Yeah.

Z: Oh boy.

M: And they would just, you, so you, the rent, that money you would never see. You would just (- -)

D: Uh, at the time they would, they would remove the rent and everything [else that you owed] the company, out of your pay [unclear].

M: Now, that would be like, if, I guess that's too (- -) When, when n-, when the factory operated the store, would they just take money out for that, too, or would you (- -)

D: I don't know. When you used to buy things at the store, did, (A: Yeah) you know at that, when uh the mill used to run everything, (Z: Yeah) the store and everything; (Z: Yeah) when you bought something at the store, did you pay the store or did you pay the company?

A: Paid the store.

Z: Paid the store.

D: Did you pay the store? (M: Oh yeah) (A: Yeah)

Z: Paid the merch-, merchandise at the store. (M: Yeah) (M: Yeah) [Store they named Dalton]. [Him and his daughter used to] run the store. But we had uh you know (- -)

D: That mustn't have gone on [too, too] long.

A: No.

Z: No. Not very. [Not very].

D: From the time that you came here until they started selling the (A: Yeah) houses. [a

couple of people talk; unclear

A: When they start to sell the house, they started uh, build over there.

M: At, at uh (A: But) Berkshire Drive.

A: But uh, and you know that, yeah, that Berkshire Drive over there. (M: Yeah) They start [unclear]. We used to have uh, we used to have a cornfield out there.

D: Yeah, well they used to own, I remember they owned that uhh (- -)

A: Yeah. (M: Who) They owned that.

M: Who, who operated the cornfield?

A: Uh, the company. (M: The company did) Yeah. Because they had uh a barn right on the, on the [Barn] Street. We used to call that [Barn] Street.

M: Where the, where the Chateau (D: Yeah) Apartment is?

D: Where the Chateau Apartment (- -)

A: Yeah. Where the Chateau Apartment is.

D: That's what they call the [Barn] Street.

A: [unclear]. [someone else talks; unclear]

M: Did you, did you have your own garden?

A: Oh, we had our garden, but right in back of the school, ours, ehh, [Zepherin laughs] from our house we use to have it on that side. [Zepherin and Alma both talk; unclear] (M: Yeah)

D: That, I remember that, (M: Is that right?) and I got some pictures of that.

A: Yeah, he got the pictures.

M: So the people who worked in the mill could have their own garden over there?

A: Where?

M: I mean they could have a garden where they (- -)

A: Oh yeah! [Zepherin and Alma both talk; unclear]

M: Did you have the land for that?

A: Yeah.

Z: Yes. We used to have [unclear] the piece you wanted.

M: Did most, did most people do that?

Z: Uh most, [they didn't want] to do it. (M: Yeah)

A: Well, some of them didn't want it. [Alma and Zepherin both talk; Alma unclear]

Z: Yeah. Some people didn't want to do that. They didn't want to you know have tomatoes and all that stuff. They didn't want to. [unclear] the land there you know and uh worked.

A: Where [Dennis] there you are there, they had nice uh land over there. [Dennis and Alma both talk; unclear]

M: Yeah, like behind the Fire Department? (D: Yeah) Oh yeah.

Z: Nice [loam]. (A&M: Yeah) That's right.

D: I know there's nice loam, because we dug the [fire station], there must have been over three and a half feet of loam. (M: Is that right?) Oh yeah. Beautiful loam. (M: Yeah, yeah)

A: Mr. [Erskine], when he was there, he was nice to us.

M: He was the superintendent?

A: Yeah, he was the superintendent, Mr. [Erskine]. He had daughters and [two] sons.

M: Did he live here?

A: Yeah, he lived there where um (- -)

D: [Lento]?

A: [Lento]. (D: That's right, [Lento]) (M: Oh is that right?) Yeah he lived right there.

D: [talks at same time] That house on uh, School Street, (M: Yeah, I know) with the big pillars. (M: Yeah) (A: Yeah) That's where the superintendent used to live.

M: Okay. That was just uh, it was owned by the mill, and the superintendent got that house? (A: Yeah) Who was the superintendent after him?

A: Oh (- -)

D: Arthur Erskine? (A: Who?) Arthur Erskine was (- -)

A: [unclear] Arthur Erskine, I don't remember him.

D: [unclear]. (A: Who?) [unclear].

A: No, after Erskine there (- -) [several people talk; unclear] They had two or three.

D: When did uh, uhh (- -)

M: There was somebody by the name of Quinn.

D: Quinn, Harry Quinn.

A: [talks at same time] Quinn, Harry Quinn.

Z: Harry Quinn was the second (- -) (A: Second one)

M: He was, (Z: Yeah) he was after Erskine? (Z: Yeah)

D: Did he come after Erskine?

A: Yeah, (M: Okay) he come after Erskine. Yeah.

D: He was working [unclear] there, I think.

A: Well, he was a bookkeeper first. [several people talk; unclear]

M: Okay. And he, he moved into that house?

D: He moved, no, I don't know. I don't think so.

A: No, he didn't move in the h-, (D: No, because the) he didn't move around here. (M: Oh he never)

D: The co-, the company sold, they started selling, they started selling the house, [that he sold that one house]. (M: Oh, I see) [unclear]. (A: Yeah) I always remember, when we were living in [Cumberland] (- -)

A: Yes, he was [unclear] in Cumberland. He used to w-, well, eh he was working over here. He started with uh just bookkeeper and then (D: Yeah) after he started to go up and go up. (D: Yeah) But he never lived in Albion. (A: No, never) He lived in [Pelham], right? [someone speaks; unclear] (Z: That's right) Because I used to [chat] with him, and (- -)

A: He used to have his own home.

D: Yeah. [unclear]. (M: Yeah)

A: Mr. Flynn.

D: Oh Flynn, oh yeah, (A: Yeah, we had Flynn) the [unclear]. (M: Who was he?)

Z: The guy from [Perfecta]. (M: Who was he? Or what did he do?)

A: Ah he used to be uh supervisor after, after uh [unclear] , he was, after, no he was (- -)

D: Flynn was the last one, I know that.

A: Yeah, Flynn was the last one. That's, uh [Quinn] was the second one.

D: He was the one [from Erskine to Flynn]. (M: Oh, I see) (A: Yeah)

A: The guy uh, [unclear] (- -)

M: Any idea where, when Quinn came?

A: Oh no, I don't [know when Flynn came].

Z: I don't know. [unclear].

D: I know that he started, he started uh working here when he was very young. In the office. Because I (A: Yeah) remember talking to him. (M: Yeah) And uh, I've known him when he was [unclear] the superintendent. He stayed on for [unclear]. Uhh, he always [unclear].

M: Did, did most of the workers get along with these, these supervisors?

A: Oh, yeah, a lot of people [unclear].

Z: She used to work for Flynn, (A: Yeah) uh Flynn. (M: Yeah)

A: [chuckling] I used to go in the office. [Zepherin laughs] I used to work, I used to go in early in the morning, and fix up the office. (M: Oh yeah) He had about four, yeah four girls in there. (Z: Yeah, four girls) And uh Harry. (Z: Yeah) But when Mr. Flynn came, it wasn't uh, now Harry, Harry's on up, you know, (M: Yuh) [unclear]. Flynn came, he was the super. (Z: Yeah) Flynn was the super. (Z: Yeah, yeah, he was the super)

D: That's [Alma talks at same time; unclear] because his father was uh, boiler, boiler tender and uh, [unclear] at the same time. Boiler tender and he was also [unclear]. (M: Okay) So, working [unclear] office [back there] and that's what she used to [unclear] him. [unclear].

M: Okay you, (Z: Hey) (A: I was) and you, you were also working, still working in the mill besides, besides cleaning the office.

A: Who were (- -)

M: You were, you were

A: Oh yeah

M: Cleaning the office and (- -)

A: Oh I used to go in the office before they come in in the morning. (M: Yeah) And then after well it, I used to go to school. And after that, when I u-, go to school, and then noontime I used to hurry up and uhh make their dinner for the teacher, and come home and make the dinner for my mother and father. (M: Uh huh) And at night, at six-thirty, I used to go down the mill with my father's, I used to work at night, and I help my father out, and my father used to you know put in the uh, use that boiler there and [unclear]. (D: The boiler) Uh the boiler. (D: Yeah) They didn't have uh [unclear] back then. We used to, he used to travel at um [unclear]. [someone talks at same time; unclear] And I used to make three rounds.

M: Where did they get the coal from?

A: From the tr-, uh train. The train behind (M: Oh by train) (- -) Yeah, by train.

D: Yeah, it would come in by train and it was (M: Yeah) a uh, unloading uh center, (M: Yeah) part, and on the side they used to dump everything [unclear] the coal bins. And they had to, to uh wheel barrel the coal bin, (A: Yeah) the, (M: Right) the coal from the bin to the [unclear].

Z: [unclear].

A: Twenty-three dollars a week we used to pay them.

Z: Yeah, yeah. [unclear] a month. [someone chuckles]

A: I used to help him out. I used to make a [unclear].

M: It wouldn't, it wouldn't get you too far today, that's for sure.

Z: I'm telling you, I'm glad I, I live the way we are now. [Dennis and interviewer laugh] Oh, see sometime I used to [save everything] [unclear]. Put that [second hand] here. You don't want to work, get the hell out! [unclear] lot of people [unclear]. [And then] there was no work. [unclear]. [several people talk; unclear] You go here, you go to Manville, you go all around. There was all cotton mill. (M: Yeah) Gee whiz! Hey! And they, [coughs] you go in one place they used to have pay just like over here.

M: And there was never any other businesses here right? [Zepherin coughs] Just the, just that (- -)

D: Just the cotton, textile [unclear]. (M: Yeah)

Z: Yeah, that's all it was.

M: Then did you go to Catholic school or public school? [Zepherin coughs]

D: Catholic school. Catholic school. (M: Catholic school?) Started kindergarten, public school. With the kind-, uh there was a [Zepherin coughs] kindergarten right up here, uhh and then the following year, first grade, I went to St. [Andrew's].

M: Why, why did you go to a Catholic school instead of public school?

D: [talks at same time] My father [unclear] had to, he had to. [laughs] (M: Why?) You were French, you were Catholic, you went to sch-, Catholic school! (M: Is that right?) [all laugh]

M: Who went to the public school then?

D: Um, (M: If most of the people in the village are French) mostly, nobody from here. There was just a few from within the village. They were uh from the [farm area].

M: Oh around, around (D: Yeah) the village. (D: Yeah) Okay.

D: [Old River] Road. Uhh, (M: Yeah) that uh [unclear]. Uh (- -)

A: What is (- -)

D: They used to bus, they bused [unclear]. (M: Oh yeah?)

M: Was there any much interaction or were they really separate?

D: No, no. There was nothing really. There was no connection whatsoever. (M: Is that right?)

A: Dennis, w-were you going to school, Dennis, when ya-, no, [he] wasn't going to school that time. Well when he went to start, open up the French school, but, but that school that there is now, I, you used to have one teacher for seventy-five kids. (M: Is that right?) Yeah.

Z: [unclear].

A: One teacher. I used to [several people talk; unclear] I went to school there for one (- -) I couldn't speak French. I came from Worcester. So I had to go to Catholic school to learn French.

M: You wanted to learn French. (A: Huh?) You wanted (- -)

A: I was a French but I used to live in Worcester and I was talking English all the time.
Over my (- -)

M: You wanted to learn French though.

A: I wanted to learn French, yes. (M: Like) When my father used to uh, he had his [friends], but he didn't lose his. (M: Oh) And my mother, too. So then I, I start to again. I start to talk and talk you know.

M: Had you gone to school in, (A: I went to school) in Worcester? (Hnh?) In, had you gone to school in Worcester, too?

A: Yeah, I went to school in Worcester, too.

M: And that was English speaking?

A: But only English used. (M: Oh; thought so) Yeah, yeah. [Alma interviewer talk at once; Alma unclear]

M: So that's how you learned it.

A: [unclear]. We start school at, in uh kindergarten. Five, I was five. Five years old. My little brother was four. (M: So) And uh he had, he had his First Communion over there with me. (M: Oh) Four years old.

M: So you really learned how to speak French here?

A: Ohh, I went over here, I [will] speak French. [Dennis laughs] But I go to die over there. When I go to die [unclear].

M: [Zepherin and interviewer both talk; unclear] How much, when y-, when you went to the Catholic school, how much was in French and how much was in English?

D: Almost [in all] French. (M: Oh really?) Oh yeah. Uh, it was all French uhh, [pause: 5 sec.] up until just about [unclear].

M: Is that right? Was that just English class? Was that (- -)

D: English class, yeah. Every, everything was in French.

M: Now was that nuns? Who were (- -)

D: Nuns, yeah. [unclear].

M: Do they, do they speak English well when they taught the English class?

D: Yeah. Yeah, there was always one nun that was worse [unclear] (--)

M: Was one, was the Catholic school considered a better school than the uh public school or was it (- -)

D: Well, we always thought it was, because you know we were Catholic, and uh, you had to go to Catholic school. Otherwise you were branded. [someone laughs] (A: Yeah) You know? (A: Yeah that's true) So you were brought up that way you know. The nuns were very, very strict. [unclear].

Z: Yeah, you can say that again!

D: Yeah, but uh, you know (- -)

A: A dollar. A dollar a month.

D: Uh ay that's it. They, you were still.

A: Each person [unclear].

M: Had to pay a dollar a month [unclear].

A: Yeah, but uh, [English school] we didn't pay.

D: Public (M: Right) school you didn't have to pay. (M: Right)

A: [unclear].

Z: The taxpayer, hey. [Alma and Dennis talk; unclear]

M: Now did they, right up to the, when the school closed did they still do that with uh most of the day in French?

A: [unclear] sister [unclear].

D: No they uh, as I reached the seventh and eight grade, uh, there was a t-, about two [unclear]. [unclear] French Canadians.

M: Oh. (D: Uh) Now that, what year is that about?

D: Well, would have been uh, let's see, forty-six, forty-seven, forty, about forty-eight, forty-nine. Nineteen forty-nine. About nineteen forty-nine. (M: Yeah)

A: But when you were born we had just [unclear]. We left. (D: Yeah) We started to having [sisters] then. (D: Yeah) [two people talk; unclear]

D: There wasn't too many of us. Uhh, no. Each class maybe uh six or seven per class. My graduating class was five. (M: Really?) [chuckles]

M: A lot better than seventy-five in a class. [all chuckle]

D: Well we used to uh, you know used [unclear] parish hall, (M: Yeah) and we were divided into four classes. (M: Okay) Four classrooms.

M: And that was the school there, where the parish, (D: That's right) where the parish hall was.

D: Four classrooms. Two grades in each, each room.

M: I don't im-, don't imagine public school wasn't that big either, was it?

D: Public school was a little bit bigger. Much bigger, (M: Yeah) because there (A: Four) were two floors. (M: Yeah) (A: Got four rooms [unclear]) There was two floors. (Z: Oh yeah) There was eight rooms. [several other people talk; unclear] There was eight rooms in the public school plus uh, (Z: There were four rooms, yeah; four rooms) upstairs, downstairs, of course they had a cellar. Of course they had the huge uh hallways. (M: Yeah) So uh, you know it was much bigger.

M: Now when you were young and kids were hanging around together would they have spoken in French or English?

D: Uh, mostly French. (M: Mostly French) Mostly. (M: Yeah)

Z: At that time you used to have a lot of French people.

M: I-, i-, in the mill, would you speak French or English?

Z: That's right uh you know I can talk French, but uh if I talk too fast I-I get all mixed up! [all laugh] Because when we left the place in Canada over there, I was ehh, [wait a minute] twelve (A: Twelve) years old. Twelve years old. I land here, I want to go to work. But uh I went down the hill, you know uh, [unclear], the second hand, he says, "Oh you got to go to back to school," he says, "You got to learn Eng-, English." [Alma talks: unclear] I says, "Yeah." I says, "Okay." So I went to school over here, public school. I stayed there for a year. And uh even so I used to go to school uh oh I'd say at night. I used to go to school at night; seven o'clock until nine. And uh well after, well they [stuck] the school. Yeah, and uh I was graduate over there. When, [laughs] when I graduate I says to the guy at public school, [unclear], says, "You don't know much, but," he says, "you look to be a good kid," he said. "I'll give you your paper." [Alma chuckles; says something unclear]

M: That, that's how you learned to speak English? [Zepherin coughs]

D: Yeah, we had to go back when we have citizenship, anyway.

Z: Yeah; (A: Yeah) that's right. (M: Oh)

D: See they must have had uh [unclear]. They must have had special classes because there was so much of an influx [Zepherin coughs] of Canadian people (M; Yeah) in-, into the area, uhh, they needed classes to, in order for them to get their citizenship.

M: And they had to speak English to get their citizenship? (All: Yeah) Because it see-, I think there's some people who, who live here now who don't, (Z: Who don't even speak) don't even speak English. [all laugh] (Z: Yeah) [Alma talks; unclear] (Z: That's right) (D: Yeah; yeah)

D: Well you needed so-, you needed some words in English I guess to get by. [Zepherin talks; unclear] Depending who was fixing the papers. [Someone laughs]

Z: [Plenty like that] (A: Oh boy) that time.

A: That time.

M: What, what did uh, when you first came here what did people do to eh pass the time when they weren't working?

Z: Pass time? We wa-, wa-, walk around the village.

M: That's wa-, just walking?

Z: [Alma talks at same time; unclear] Just walking. There was no cars! (M: Yeah)

A: We used to have a big, a big [group] at the corner. (D: Yeah) [clears throat]

D: The corner. That was (- -)

A: Oh, that was [unclear].

D: That was uh (- -)

M: You mean at the store?

A: Yeah [at the corner] (M: Yeah) at the store. (M: Yeah) [Dennis talks at same time; unclear] Mr. [unclear] had it then, store.

D: Early sixties, early sixties, (A: Oh yeah) the corner was the thing. It was the place to be.

Z: Hey, [you want to be]!

M: You mean walk to the corner and hang around there?

D: Yeah, just walk to the corner and hang around. Both sides of the street. (M: Really?) Oh yeah.

M: People of all ages?

D: All ages. (M: Is that right?)

A: [talks at same time] Oh yeah! (M: Yeah)

Z: Anybody! Anybody! (M: Yeah) We used to go all get together and blah, blah, blah, blah.

D: [talks at same time] Social, social gathering [really]. (M: Yeah) In the, in the uh summer nights [clears throat] they'd start around seven. (Z: Yeah) Until about ten o'clock. (M: Is that right?) Yeah. [Zepherin talks; unclear] There was two big oak trees, that were o-on each corner, (M: Yeah) so there was a lot of shade. [unclear]. (M: Yeah) (Z: Oh yeah, that was a big)

M: But did people do e-, well, [chuckles] of course you're a lot younger, but when, when you were young what did people do for entertainment?

D: The corner, well the corner was the big thing.

M: Any-, anything else?

D: Uhh, [pause: 5 sec.] at sixteen, seventeen the uh, you know the big thing was if somebody had a car. Not everybody had cars. [unclear].

Z: Yeah, you could count the ones that had a car.

D: And uh just pitch in, buy gas, go to Woonsocket. That was the big thing. Go to Woonsocket, (M: Yeah) go to a show in Woonsocket. (Z: Go to a show) But uh, well, it, now I guess it was a little more expensive, seven bucks. [Zepherin chuckles] But that was a, that was a big thing. If you found somebody that had a car; it was usually their Dad's car, you know. (M: Yeah) But uh, you know, middle fifties uh, later on uh, fifty-eight, cars were getting more (M: Yeah) uh, uh, at hand for everybody. So uh, it wasn't long before everybody, almost everybody had a car, then they started (M: Yeah) going out. You see that, like uh, re-reflected in the Fire Department. Because the Fire Department was a social gathering also. Uh, because there was nothing else to do. Everybody became a fireman. (M: Yeah) And uh, like [unclear], um then when cars were made available, kids getting a little more independent. Uh started, they started seeing everybody [unclear]. (M: But) And now it's at the point where (- -) [chuckles]

M: What got you started into the Fire Department?

D: Oh because there was, there wasn't anything to do. Every, everybody became a fireman at sixteen [unclear]. (M: Oh yeah) Everybody. (M: Yeah) [Alma talks; unclear] [unclear]. You lived, you lived in the village, same thing in [unclear], you lived in the village sixteen years of age, like now it's like everybody going for uh, uh their drivers licenses when they're sixteen. Everybody wants, in those days, you joined the Fire Department. (M: Oh I see)

A: Charlie [unclear] was [unclear].

D: Uh Charlie [unclear].

A: Charlie [unclear], yeah.

M: What's that?

D: That's Charlie [unclear]. He was attached with the uh, uh, with the mill.

M: What was his, what did he do at the mill?

D: At the mill he was a yard man, what they called a yard man. (A: Yeah, he was) He was a [foreman]. He'd uh, he-e always used to have a group of peo-, of, of guys to take care of the yard. (M: Yeah) In those days when they used to use, run the uh, the water, underneath the uh [mill], [M: Okay) to the turbines. (M: Yeah) That had to be clean, so you'd get, I mean you had people doing that. [unclear]. Anything that had to be done outside: minor cleaning, all of that. So he was the foreman, uh and also one of his duties was fire brigade. So he was in charge of the fire brigade. Nineteen forty-one, the company was [very loud train or traffic noise in background] [unclear] of selling everything [unclear]. And the village started uh rolling. Uh they would, incorporated the Fire Department, Fire Department in forty-one. He was the first chief [unclear]. (M: I see) And he only kept it until uh forty-four, until the War ended and everybody started coming back. [unclear].

M: So how many years have you been Chief?

D: I've been chief twenty years. (M: Twenty years) Well, twenty years next week. [somebody talks; unclear]

M: And you think it's less of a thing now for the people of the village to, I mean everybody doesn't join when they turn sixteen.

D: That's [unclear] true. It's not the in thing to do. (M: Yeah) I, I had a, a young boy approach me a couple weeks ago, in the area and he says uh, "How old do you have to be to become a, a volun-, a fireman?" I says, "Sixteen." He says, "[Pretty soon I'll be eighteen] [unclear] sixteen." He says, "What do we have to do?" So I start telling him that before you [unclear], now you have to go to school, this and that. It's usually a six month [night course] [unclear] fire captain and weekends. Put in so many hours and [attain] the level and then you, you [unclear]. "So how much do you get for that?" "You don't get anything." He says, "I have to do all that," he says, "get up at night," he says, "and respond to an alarm," he says, "I nev-, I

don't get paid?" I says, "Yuh." He says, he says, "That's not for me." [Zepherin laughs; interviewer chuckles] And in those, you know, and then uh you know, going back just a few years, there'd be, (Z: Oh yeah) [you'd fight a fire] (M: Yeah) and it was a big thing. (M: Yeah) Not any more. (Z: No; not the same) I've seen the whole thing you know, come right around. (M: Yeah) Um, (- -)

M: Y-you mentioned about the, the water turning the turbines. When did they stop, when did they stop eh doing that? Because that, that provided the power for the whole village, right? (D: Yeah)

D: Uhh, [interviewer talks; unclear] yeah, well the whole village, from School Street and uh Main Street, uh, they were also using the water to turn, you know those, the, the, the uh, the belts, they were going, they were connecting the, the, the [unclear] shop.

A: [talks at same time] Engine room? Oh.

D: The big, big belts. (Z: Yeah, Yeah) Well you had big ones on the bottom. (Z: Yeah) Was that, that was run by the water, wasn't it?

A: Yeah.

Z: [talks at same time] Ah, that's right. The water wheel [unclear].

D: Water, there'd be a big water wheel. They used to turn that also.

Z: They had two of them like that.

D: Right. So they, they started losing, not losing but getting away from this thing. Ahh, it had to have been just about in the mid forties. [Zepherin and Dennis both talk; unclear] Lunchtime, the big thing then was, they were removing [big, big] belts [Zepherin and Dennis both talk; unclear] the looms. [Zepherin talks; unclear] (M: Is that right?) Yeah. And they were going electrical. And they were putting electrical uh (Z: Generators) uh the electrical uh motors to operate, (Z: Yeah) one, one would operate two, two [unclear]. That was the big thing. (Z: Yeah, you're right) That's when they started losing their dependence on water. And, and, also using, they were also using the water to turn the turbines. They were also using the water to turn [unclear].

A: And they changed the boiler, too. (D: Yeah) [unclear].

D: I'm not quite sure of the dates that they uh, they actually let go of you know s-, supplying the uh village with water, I mean with the (M: Yeah) electricity, but uh (- -)

A: We used to pay our electric bill over here. They, they made, they're the ones that the big transformer there?

D: Yeah. I don't know when they stopped that though.

A: But this, they-ey, they started that when, when we were, when we came we had to pay it down the mill. (D: Yeah) We had to pay (- -)

M: [talks at same time] You paid your electric right there?

A: Huh?

M: You paid your electric bill right at the mill.

A: Yeah. Down the hill there [unclear]. (M: Yeah) I used to go pay it when I was down there, a dollar twenty-five. Ninety-eight cents for the meter they say, the rest we had to pay there.

D: What, I don't know when Blackstone Valley took over.

A: Uhh, I don't remember the [unclear]. I know my father was working when they, they started.

D: In Blackstone Valley? (A: Yeah) What about the water that they had? The parish? That used to feed School Street and Main Street. (A: Huh?) The garden, you know the reservoir on Church?

A: Oh the reservoir on top of the hill. (D: Yeah)

Z: Yeah, that, that been running for years.

D: Yeah that, I, I don't know if that was in the early forties they started that. Because I remember going to school there and they still had the reservoir. (M: Oh is that right?) Yeah.

M: Oh it's like at the beginning of [Lincoln] (Z: Yeah) Estates, like (Z: Yeah) behind the parking lot? (Z: Right)

D: Yeah. (M: Yeah) Uhh, they also changed the height of, they were feeding School Street and they had hydrants there, too, the old-fashioned hydrants. Uhh (- -)

M: The water must still be there, under the ground. (D: Oh yeah) But they don't use that at all.

D: No, they use the [unclear]. [Alma talks; unclear] In fact that came up not too long ago because the police wanted to tap that to, to water the uh, (M: Yeah) and uh they found a pipe but they didn't know where [unclear]. In fact I remember the, the reservoir being [unclear], [pump housing]. [unclear]. [door opens] (A: Hi!) (M: Hi, Joanne) They were [pump housing] (- -)

M: Do you want to join in? (Z: Huh?) Do you want to join in? [several people talk; unclear] That's okay. [Alma laughs]

A: We still get a pipe over here. (D: Huh?) They got a pipe there.

D: They still have the old pipe? (A: Yeah) (Z: Yeah) (M: Is that right?)

A: They still have every [Zepherin and Alma both talk; unclear]

Z: Bergeron over here, right in the middle.

D: Eh yeah. Well three, three years ago they changed it.

Z: Ehh yeah but then they found out that the water was [unclear]. (D: Yeah) And the guy, I was outside, he says, "Hey," he says, "what's the idea?" The guy from, [down Lincoln]. [someone coughs] He says, "What's the idea?" I says, "You know what?" I says, "Why don't you go to the town of Lon-, uh Lincoln," I says. "Find out where that come from."

D: Yeah they did put that in uh (- -) (Z: Yeah) Yeah, they, [unclear] they used to feed uh both houses with just (Z: Yeah) one line. (Z: And both uh) And so [unclear]. (M: Yeah) [unclear] they would (Z: Yeah) branch out. (M: I see) They would [save] [unclear]. You didn't need that much water in those days, too. (M: Yeah) Just when the demand increased [I guess], that's when they started, with the new housing. Uhh that's when they used the town. Because they used the existing water pipes. And they let go of the uh, eh the parish uh well. Cumberland was feeding this section of Lincoln, (M: Oh) and they just, what they'd do was they just laid a pipe across the river, tie it in, of course the mill was also tied in with it, and they just [fed the water].

M: And that m-, that was the mill that put in that, that, those pipes originally?

D: It could have been. (M: Yeah) It must, they must have been because they, at the time, they were uh running the house. (M: Yeah) Yeah. So (- -)

M: When did they (- -)

D: I wou-, I, I would imagine that's when they tied in. You had the reservoir up on top of the hill, you just, gravity fed the thing, and you were also feeding the mill, so, (M: When) there you go.

M: When did they put in hot water? [Zepherin laughs and Alma talks; unclear] They had, they (- -) [Alma and Zepherin both talk; unclear] They didn't, they didn't have it when you came.

A: Not the hot water.

Z: [talks at same time] Nooo, oh no! [unclear]. (M: Yeah) Ohhhhh!

D: We had the hot water only in uh (- -)

Z: Yeah. We had, [unclear].

D: [talks at same time] Sssixty, sixty-eight, sixty-eight. Up until sixty-eight we still had just cold water. (M: Really?; is that right?)

A: Well I remember we had that [unclear].

D: We were the last one to have that, too. (A: Yeah, and uh) The outhouse. (M: The outhouse; is that right?) You'd have one (M: I guess there) little, and two houses on each end with uh, [Zepherin talks; unclear] in other words you got three, two houses, (M: Yeah) per one outhouse. And it was right in the middle of the land about, up [above the tree]. (M: Oh I see) You know, so [interviewer talks; unclear] we, we had one over here (M: Yeah) that would take care of this house, this house. That I remember, too. [laughs]

A: He had to [clean] [unclear].

M: So how long, how long were those used until?

D: Uh, we, I can remember my grandfather putting the plumbing in. That was in the early forties. (M: Is that right?) Or mid forties. Uhh, that was still out here. We were the la-, one of the last ones to get rid of the house.

A: [talks at the same time] We were the la-, (Z: That's right) and you know who bought it? Mr. [Calezi].

D: Yeah, I remember that. [Alma talks; unclear] I remember moving it, too. (A: Yeah) Uhh, yeah that was in the uh mid forties. (M: Yeah) (Z: Yeah) [Moved it] in the mid forties. And it wasn't until sixty-eight that we had hot water.

M: Well I should, I, I'm, I'm going to get back to the Fire Department for a minute. (D: Yeah) Just, just to make it clear on the tape that the, it's a, it's a village fire department, (D: Yeah) serving, (D: It was a uh) serving Albion. Now is that, did, at least with the, the rescue, they don't uh, each village doesn't have its own rescue?

D: Oh no. No, no, no, no. Rescue is entirely different uhh part of the uh (- -) The districts uhh, formed themselves through necessity. Uh, Manville, [Lawnsdale] are about the oldest fire districts. Began in the eighteen hundreds. Uhh, and uh, even up until forty-one, Manville was still being called to respond to all the house fires in the valley. (M: Really?) Yeah. Uh, the mill had their own fire brigade up until forty-one. (M: The mill here) The mill, right, because they have [unclear]. (M: Yeah) Uhh and the uh firefighters were from the mill, they were workers at the mill. (M: Yeah) Uhh, when they needed the firemen to just go into [unclear], go for the horse and uh get the pumps out and respond. (Z: Yeah I remember) Yeah.

Z: Yeah I remember. [unclear]. [Dennis laughs] [Zepherin coughs]

D: He bought Manville's truck, uh when they were appropriated in forty-one. But uh he kept

the truck for about six months and then he bought a forty-one Ford from uh, a brand new one, and that was the start of the Fire Department. And when they started the Fire Department, uhh, they uh had to meet with other districts to, to form lines.

M: [talks at same time] Let me, let me, I only want to ask one question (D: Yeah) because I don't know, might be getting to it anyway but, how did they pay for the, I mean who paid for the truck? The people of Albion?

D: People of Albion. [Dennis and interviewer both talk] Yeah, yes. (M: People of Albion; okay) They incorporated uhh, (M: It has nothing to do with the town) No, it has nothing to do with the town, because actually the uhh, the group of people that uh, in this case here it was a start from the uh, from the mills. Uhh, the, the one that spearheaded the Fire Department was a fellow by the name of Bishop. [Zepherin talks; unclear] Mr. Bishop was the Stationmaster. Uh, (M: At that, the railroad) The railroad track, yeah. And he saw the need for a [unclear], a fire department, and he more or less spearheaded the uh, the organization, uh which was just a matter of getting a, some uh individuals in the local district to form themselves uh and then to uh seek uh through legislation uh a amal- (- -)

[end of side one]

D: Uhh, and uh the boundaries in Albion didn't just uh ex-, extend, exist in the village proper. They extended a little up the hill, up to one forty-six. And there was an imaginary line uh up near the uh, [unclear]. Later on, when the village, the district of Limerock became involved, which was not until the fifties, middle fifties, [unclear], uh did they meet.

M: How were they, how were they served before?

D: Uhhh, again (M: Just by other) by other districts. (M: Yeah) Uh by other districts. Uh because Limerock was very farm area. They [unclear].

M: Yeah very spread out.

D: Oh yeah, very spread out. They would call uh [Lawnsdale], [and Manville would assist]. Uhh they uh met with Limerock and designated one sixteen as a boundary. So that's how, you know, but, that was a big thing in those days was to set the boundary lines. Records, there was a lot of records and various meetings. It's funny how they, they were haggling back and forth for a piece of land. But they uh, according to law they had to set down rules. Once that was set uh they were empowered to levy taxes and that's how it started.

M: What about the rescue? When did (- -)

D: Now the rescue, uhh, started [pause: 3 sec.] as a need again uhh, people needing uh medical aid. Uhh we did have [Lawnsdale] Rescue that started, it was nothing more than a bakery truck, but would assist the Fire Department in uh, in uh, uh, in an automobile accident, for instance; or when there was a big fire they would respond in uh, with the first aid. Uh, what happened was uh, in those days, uh especially when, especially when doctors were having to call

upon these, well you used to be able to pick up the phone, and the doctor would come to the house, uh, in the fifties that started to, well, when you called for a doctor they didn't necessarily come uh as fast as they used to. So you had to rely on getting to the hospital. Uhh, they would call either, in this area they would call uh Woonsocket Hospital, and Woonsocket would send an ambulance down if there was one was available. So uh, somebody somewheres along the line had the bright idea of calling, for instance, [Lawnsdale]. Say, hey they got a truck that carry a person, so let's start you know they would call, and they would respond. So uh this got to be uh very popular you know. Somebody was sick, "Call the Rescue. Call this truck," [unclear] they'd come over and pick you up. [Zepherin chuckles] But [Lawnsdale] was starting to go all over the place and it [unclear] it was getting to be uh quite a chore for them, especially being a volunteer [unclear]. So here in the northern area, a group of people uh formulated, uh, uh started to get at the uh [northern Lincoln] ambulance that would service Albion and Manville. (M: Yeah) Uh and they would get their funding just by getting rid of some of [unclear] donations, three dollars a year [unclear]. That went on for about, just about ten years. When I became Chief, I wanted a rescue. Uh, [unclear] rescue, I bought, we bought a rescue truck. We got the [coins] together and we bought a res-, new rescue truck and that's how we started. Uh, and that was twenty years ago.

M: So uh now with, th-there are still districts in Lincoln that don't have a r-, rescue (- -)

D: No, they still don't have it because what happened is we uh, the rescue service evolved into emergency medical services. The need was so great that uh they were, you know people were requesting us, you know people would call us to be uh instituted in a lot of uh additional training. Uh, specialized training. So that the, the service itself became very, very specialized. Uhh, to the point now where I think it would be very hard to start a rescue service like we started. So for a district right now to say well I want to put a rescue [unclear], it's a little bit, almost impossible. Because [refinements] would have to be [regrooved]. We uh, when we started the Rescue, uh all you needed was a driver's license, that's it. And a truck with a stretcher. That's it. You were in business. Uh and then uh someone says, came along and then the law says well you got to have first aid. And the first aid turned out to be uh emergency medical practices. And now it's at the point where they are actually doing drugs you know. Very, very specialized. Now, this, you grew with this. It's very, it would be very hard. So wha-, well what happened was in [unclear] there was only uh, well Manville, when Albion started their own rescue service, the need for northern Lincoln uh was dissipated. Northern Lincoln turned itself over to the uh Manville fire district. So now you have two rescues in town: [Lawnsdale] which was the [unclear] one; you have Albion that uh started a rescue [unclear]; and you have Manville that used to be northern Lincoln [unclear].

M: So if there was a, a emergency in, in Limerock, for example, one of the other, one of the three existing districts would handle it?

D: That's where some of the problems, more or less problems, started coming in. Um, the fact that we were responding to Limerock, Manville was responding to Limerock also, we were responding to other districts, uh, it started to show up as, as a plus factor. And uh, somewheres, somebody along the line, uh I think it might have started in [Lawnsdale], because in one you read that Lincoln was giving [Lawnsdale] two thousand dollars for responding to other districts,

town of Lincoln. So when we heard of that, we did the same thing. We said, "We're responding to Limerock, so why don't we do it?" So we started, too, and we requested two thousand, they gave us two thousand. And then [Lawnsdale] says, "Well, we're doing more runs, so we should have more." So they asked for more. [Zepherin chuckles] We asked for more. The first thing you know, it was up to twenty thousand, twenty-five thousand, and at that point the town says, "Whoa! If uh we're going to dish out that much money, we have to have some, some form of control. [chuckles] (M: Yeah) So that's how the control from the town started. And uh the first thing uh we were requesting, the first thing that we were requesting was full-time people because it was getting too much of a chore, the rescue service was so popular, uh, the need was so great, that it was getting too much for volunteers. So we started with full-time people and that's how it's going now. It's at a point now where a volunteer cannot do rescue (M: Yeah) [unclear]. (M: Right) It was just a growing organization that uh we tri-, we tried to keep up with.

M: Now you said before they had rescues, peop-, uh there would be doctors would, would repond in, in person, right? (D: Yeah) Was there, was there ever a doctor living here in Albion?

D: No, Manville.

A: Manville.

D: Not that I know of, no.

A: They had one on Cumberland [Road].

D: They have some in Cumberland? (A: Yeah) Yeah.

A: [unclear].

D: Doctor, was a Dr. [Sharon] in Manville, right?

A: [Sharon] in Manville, (D: Yeah) yeah. But uh the one that was in Cumberland, Doctor [unclear] they call him, [unclear]?

Z: Dr. [unclear].

A: Yeah they call him [unclear]. (Z: Yeah) Yeah.

Z: Dr. [unclear]. He, he's an Irishman. (A: Yeah) [unclear]. (D: In Albion, huh?) (Z: Yeah)

A: He used to come down. (M: Yeah)

Z: They, they did it. They call him. They come ru-, uh [Dennis talks at same time; both unclear]

M: Yeah. And they would, they would come into Albion?

A: Yeah. (Someone: Yeah) He used to come in Albion. [Zepherin and Alma both talk; unclear] We couldn't go to hospital to have our baby. we had to stay home. (M: Yeah)

Z: Yeah, at that time, (A: Yeah) eh? (A: Yeah) [Doctor] come home and eh the woman had a baby you know. Oh man!

D: [chuckles] Good old days, huh? (M: Yeah) (A: Yeah)

Z: Good old days. You can say that again. [Alma talks; unclear]

M: Uh, let's see. Just a couple more questions. How, [Zepherin laughs] here's a tough one for you. How, how has the village changed since you've been here.

Z: Oh, it's changed all right! Like this!

M: But how?

D: Ohh-oh, completely around.

M: Give me specific ways.

Z: Yeah, yeah. You bet, you bet. Hey, come to think of it, eh, eh, the firemen started with Charlie [Warner] (M: Hm) with that machine you know, big [bars] we call that on [unclear] there. [someone chuckles] (M: Yeah) Yeah. Yeah that's what I was going to say a little while ago. (D: Yep) I remember, I used to be on the pump and three other guys on one side and four of the guys on the other.

D: What do you think is the biggest change in Albion?

Z: Ohh, [well] you get me on that.

D: What was the biggest change? The biggest thing that ever happened in Albion?

Z: I don't know.

D: The road they put in? Or was it the mill selling or was it uh (- -)

Z: [sound of fabric ripping; continues through rest of interview] Uhh, the road they put in [first]. (D: Yeah) Yeah.

D: Was that a big thing?

A: The big change was when we had our house [unclear].

M: When you, when you bought the house you mean?

D: When you, when you bought the house.

A: Yeah. When we buy the house. That was a big change. [Dennis and interviewer try to talk at same time]

M: How did, how did most of the people feel when the mill was sold? I mean closed, sorry, not sold.

A: Oh, they felt bad. They thought they didn't have any places to work. But now, (D: Yeah) they're all right. When the mill stopped I didn't care. I was glad when [unclear]. (M: Oh yeah?)

Z: Yeah. Big, big pay, oh man.

A: [unclear]. (M: How much was it, m-) Used to pay quite a bit at the end.

M: Yeah I was going to say, how much was it at the end, the pay?

Z: At the end, well uh it wasn't too, (A: Thirty-five) too bad. (A: Thirty, thirty-five) Yeah. Yeah. [Alma talks at same time; unclear] Because uh Roosevelt was in there.

D: How much, h-how much were you making when they closed over here? [Zepherin and Dennis both talk; Dennis unclear]

Z: Must have been about forty, forty-two.

D: You must have been making more than that; when they closed. (A: No) When they closed? (A: No) No?

Z: Ohh-h-h-h, (M: Is that right?) no, ohh-h-h no, no. No because when [there was no one in], or a while after, the union went in there. (D: Yeah) Well they start down below [unclear] for the pay. (D: Oh I see, yeah) And the while, every once in a while they used to bring the pay up. There'd be ten, fifteen cents or whatever.

A: We used to make about thirty-eight, forty. (D: Yeah)

Z: [coughs] Yeah.

M: At the end.

A: At the end. (M: Yeah)

Z: Oh yeah. You had to start low and go up nice and easy. You wouldn't do that. [Dennis laughs]

M: I guess not. [unclear]. Not now.

Z: You said it.

M: Uh, today a lot of the, even, even now a lot of the people who live in Albion still speak French. Why? And I think more so than, than most other places. Why? [Zepherin chuckles] Why so, why do so many people still speak French?

A: Why they speak? Well, we keep our lan-, eh la-, in the house we always talk French.

Z: Yeah tha-, (A: Yeah) that, [it was part] you know, it (- -)

A: It [was part].

Z: We like to speak something that [past]. In English we get mixed up. So we speak French.

A: Well, since the kid are not home, they, we, we speak again English. (Z: Yeah) Start to learn better you know. There's a lot of words we say it's more [unclear]. Because before, [Zepherin and Alma both talk; unclear]

Z: Before, whoa! [chuckles]

D: I guess they uh, they started losing the real French [in you know], in parochial school, yeah. And uh, I don't know, plus you got these people, more, more people coming in that got those [attitudes].

M: Now when you were growing up you spoke French in the house?

D: All the time. (M: Is that right?) (A: Oh yeah) Always.

M: How did you learn how to speak English? Eh, I mean, you s-, obviously speak English.

D: Well actually we had a little problem when we uh, you know when we entered the junior high. Uh, we used to (- -)

M: You mean after you left the Catholic school, (D: Yeah) you went to the public school?

D: We went to the junior high in Manville, you know. (M: Yeah) Not that bad again because uh Manville was [Interviewer talks; unclear] predominantly French. (M: Yeah) You know. And although we had uh, mostly English teachers uh throughout the school system, uh they would speak English all the time, uh you know you would have the teacher talking, uh teaching the class in English. But the minute that the kids would uh talk [unclear] French. [Zepherin chuckles] You know. Because they were so used to it. (M: Yeah) [unclear]. [Alma talks; unclear] Huh?

A: Well most of the people could get it that used to come over here [and Canada].

D: Yeah. Oh yeah, that's it.

Z: Yeah because, the way I look at it, when we land here, (D: Yeah) uh, one of my uncles' father, eh brother's father, he's the one that wri-, write the letter, told us to come down here. (D: Yeah)

M: Somebody who was already here?

Z: Oh yeah. [interviewer talks at same time; unclear] The Polish, Polish people [interviewer clears throat] lived over here.

M: I know but who, who, the person you're talking about, he was here first and wrote you a letter to come here? (A: Yeah)

Z: Yeah, yeah. That's right. (M: Yeah) That's right. So we came over here, [chuckles] and it was uh, if there was three (D: Yeah) and five, six dollars a week, come on give me your pay uh every month. Just, my mother used to bring the money in the bank. Oh boy we used to go up, [roll] up. [Dennis laughs]

M: Now, how, how long did you keep having to give the money to your family?

Z: How long? (M: Yeah) Since nineteen twenty.

M: I mean two, yeah, but how long did you keep, you gave the money to your parents when you started working. [coughs]

Z: When I started to work? Yeah.

D: When you started to work you said you, [interviewer coughs] you used to give your pay to your mother, right? (F: My father) Your father. How long, now how long [someone coughs] (- -)

Z: Father? (D: Yeah) Nineteen uh what twenty. Nineteen eighteen, nineteen twenty, twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-two.

D: Why because you left the house to get married?

Z: Oh. Oh no. (A: No he left the house) We got married la-, later on.

M: You, you left the house. [clears throat]

Z: Yeah. Left the house after.

A: He was twenty, he was twenty, twenty- [someone coughs] two (Z: Twenty-two) when he left the house. (Z: Yeah)

Z: Hey! My father (- -)

A: The year after we got married. [all talk; unclear] I like to shop with my father and mother.

Z: Yeah at that time, well I tell you, my father, you know he was so short of money, every payday, "Come on, give me your pay." Way it used to be back then. Well, that's it. (M: Yeah) [unclear] back then. [unclear] help out. [laughs]

M: Did you ha-, di-, well, i-, in Canada did you have a farm or anything? Or did you just, you just (- -)

Z: Farmer, the farmer he was, was no better than us because uh, they had uh [unclear]. It was [unclear]. (D: It was [unclear]) Yeah. Yeah. And uh (- -)

D: [unclear] on the farm?

Z: No.

D: You used to work for somebody? (A: Yeah)

Z: Yeah I worked (D: Oh I see) chopping wood. Yeah, the first guy, [unclear] fellow named [unclear]. Used to chop wood.

D: You didn't have a farm?

Z: No, nothing.

A: Didn't have no money.

D: Used to chop wood and sell the wood.

Z: Cheap, cheap, cheap [several people talk; unclear]

M: [coughs] Now what about, with, with your kids, did you uh bring them up speaking French? Sorry.

D: It's, it wa-was hard because of the, the reaction of you know in the school system. Because once they start going to school uh it's, it's a problem for them. Uh because they're uh you know they're, they're mixed in with the uh, uh school children from, throughout the town. Uh it wasn't like us where you know there's, the school was in the village. Even uh, in uh, when we started junior high in Manville, it was at that point [unclear] just happened [unclear]. We had, a-and you could actually see the difference between you know, they, they would start [unclear], because you had some children from you know the entire northern area, which is one sixteen (M: Yeah) and all of that because you know, uh there was new families that came in who

spoke English, but you had the French people from Albion village in Manville. So that we stick, more or less stick together you know? And uh, but as the years went and up until when Michael started going to school, uh it sort of got away. I mean, even if you stopped and talked to these people in, in French they would come back and talk [unclear].

M: In the house?

D: In the house, yeah. So you got to a point where uh, [unclear], your line of work for instance, and now my line of work, you know at that time, it might be, end up being a workman, was all English. Talked English and that's how they got uh (- -)

M: Do they, do they speak French?

D: Ahh, the oldest, two oldest ones will, will understand a little bit. But, my youngest one, forget it. Once in a while she'll come out with a, with a word. My wife and I talk French.

M: So in i-, like if, if they're speaking, your parents they, they speak in English.

A&D: Oh yeah.

A: They all speak English. (D: Oh yeah) (M: Do you?) Yeah. You can't help them out today. (D: No you can't) It's all English now.

D: I guess because of the you know, (A: Yeah) at one time it was, it was always in Al-, in Al-, when I was young you never you know uh really went out uh every weekend. I mean you just couldn't, you just couldn't afford to go out every night or every weekend you know. I mean you were, in Albion you stayed home, and uh you were always with the same people.

Z: Yes.

D: And with the school it was same people. It was no problem. (Z: Yeah, that's right) But once they started [unclear]. I'm sure it's like that all over.

A: [unclear] in Worcester. We used to [unclear].

D: Yeah, because it [Alma and Dennis both talk; unclear]

A: We used to go, we, when we came up here, (D: Yeah) [unclear] all, it was all French. They were French, it [unclear] other side. I couldn't speak it then. No, they were all French. [Zepherin laughs] Used to call them Canuck.

Z: Yeah, that's right. (A: That's [all]) We had some fun.

A: But you know what my father did?

Z: Drop his britches [unclear].

A: He bought me a book. A French, not English. (M: Really) But that's the way I learned.

M: So you had, you really had to learn how to speak French to survive. (A: Huh?) You really had to learn how to speak French in order to survive. (A: Oh yeah; but uh)

D: But now that's all, uh I would say right now, even in Albion uh just the elderly that uh (M: Yeah) speak French. (M: Yeah) That's it.

M: It's probably something that will be lost uh (D: Yeah) future.

D: A-and I would say in a decade that's it. You're starting to see it in Manville. They're, they're losing it, too, but not as much. You know they're (M: Oh you don't think so?) still (- -)

M: Well, there's, there's, Manville's a lot bigger.

D: Manville is a lot bigger, yeah, population wise, yeah. But i-, i-, they're losing it. They're losing it.

M: Well, I think you see a higher percentage of French people i-in Albion. Just about everybody in the old village of Albion (D: Yeah) is, (A: Yeah) is French.

D: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, well the uh, you almost have original homeowners [on] School Street. (M: Yeah) Original homeowners from [Canada]. Like she said when they bought from, (M: Yeah) [you know]. [

.

M: Okay, last question.

Z: [laughs] (M: Since you) Well, (M: Well since you) let's see how it was.

M: Since you've been here, y-y-you came here in nineteen eighteen and you s-, stayed, why have you s-stayed? Do you like living in Albion and why have you stayed here?

Z: Oh I like to stay over here because when I was young I was so, uh I can't say that, something about to do with [climactics]. (D: Yeah) The cold. (D: Yeah, y-yeah) Cold! (D: Yeah) Very, very (M: Yeah) cold. Can't be any worse.

D: So that way when you came to uh Albion there was a big change?

Z: Oh yeah, big, big change.

D: And you never bothered going any further.

Z: No, that's right. Well, we did-, we couldn't because we didn't have money in the first place. We couldn't because we were young. And l- some of them used to go to store buy

lollipop or something like that. We couldn't. We didn't have no money. (M: No) That's why you know. I think lots of time where I come from, Canada, uh no more.

M: Do you like living here?

Z: Well [laughs] (- -)

A: Oh, he likes it [all right]. [Zepherin continues laughing]

M: You, too?

A: Oh, yeah! [unclear] it's my home. Well I, I support my mother and father (Z: Yeah) the time with us. [unclear]. (Z: Yeah, that's right) Now we got our two boys with us. Everything's going good. [Zepherin talks at same time; Alma unclear]

Z: Yeah, everything good.

M: What do you think makes Albion different from other places; like different from Manville, or Woonsocket, or Pawtucket, or (- -)

A: Oh well I like the people from, in Albion. Because Manville, they're kind of rough. I know, I, I stayed up there for a year, huh? (Z: Yeah) I stayed up there? (Z: About that, yeah) And I couldn't live up there. It was terrible. You couldn't go out at night. But now (- -) (M: Because) Well, the boys in there, they were rough you know. (M: Oh yeah) It was rough.

D: There was more people in Manville. (A: It was rough) There was always a lot more people.

A: Yeah, it was, people were rough.

D: It was more quiet in Albion.

A: But now, maybe, I don't know now.

Z: That's it.

D: It was more quiet in Albion. (A&Z: Yeah)

Z: That's right. W-w-we, you go to bed and there was no noise. You go to outside, well, la-la-la, eleven, (M: Yeah) twelve o'clock at night, even one. What's the use? We're used to being over, still be here. (M: Yeah) Might as well st-, stick around here.

M: Okay, now you, you probably had the opportunity to live other places. Why have you, why have you chosen to stay in Albion?

D: [Zepherin laughs] Their roots are here. [unclear]. Uh (- -)

M: Seems like a lot of people are [going away].

D: [talks at same time] Yeah, you know uh, [Dan] really thought [bad] about it [loud motorcycle noise in background] uh, [unclear], it's quiet and uh you know when you uh, [motorcycle noise drowns out Dennis] seen all kinds of uh different things happening to different cities and towns, and you look at your place, Christ you say, "Oh, this is not a bad place." [chuckles] That's what it comes down to, you know. But we still (- -)

Z: [talks at same time] We got a TV. [chuckles] We got a TV. We look at the TV. We look at wrestle match. We, [all chuckles] we look at uh [unclear], right? Seven o'clock.

A: Well you (D: It's still uh) [unclear] your home.

D: It's still one of the very, very few place where you can almost leave your doors unlocked, really. (M: Yeah) You know you don't hear too many uh (- -)

Z: No, (M: That's true) that's why it's so quiet.

M: Like I've, I don't think I've heard of any major crimes here.

D: No, um maybe because the people, too, are closer together. You know you take like us, if you leave and anybody tries to break in, my mother's always here. (M: Yeah) So, anything like that (M: Yeah) you know that helps. But uh you know there's not too many [unclear]. Now when you look at that you say, Lord, hey, why, you know why jump from out of the pot into the fire. (M: Yeah) Right? (M: Yeah) (Z: Ah, gee whiz) It's a good place.

A: It must be quiet [in your way] there.

M: Oh yes it certainly is. [all talk; unclear] That's, that's why I like it.

A: She lives in, she used to live in [unclear]. (M: Oh is that right?) [unclear] Mrs. [Schnell]. (M: Is that right?) She got married uh and she lived over there. (M: [Yeah]) Yeah. [Long time]. Her daughter used to go out with my daughter. (M: Oh yeah) I got another daughter. She lives in [Lowell]. (M: Oh is that right?) she didn't want to live over here. [laughs]

Z: No, she didn't like the, the place over here.

D: It's too quiet. (A: Yeah) (M: It's too quiet?)

Z: She likes, she likes to move around. (M: Yeah) Uh, they bought, they bought a big uh what do you call it, uh? [Alma and Zepherin both talk; unclear] (M: Yeah) Mobile home? (A: Yeah) They used to ha-, run around, there, there, uh, all over. (M: Yeah) They liked to go out. But we don't.

A: [talks at same time] But she had nine kids. (M: Yeah) Nine kids.

Z: We don't.

M: Okay, very good. Thank you very much.

[end of tape]